

PATENT Attorney Docket No. 101.0056-09000 Customer No. 22882

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Gary K. Michelson, M.D.

Serial No.: 09/754,733)

Filed: January 4, 2001

For: ANTERIOR CERVICAL PLATING) SYSTEM, INSTRUMENTATION, AND) METHOD OF INSTALLATION)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Examiner: D. Reip

Group Art Unit: 3731

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REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In a restriction requirement dated May 7, 2001, the Examiner indicated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the cervical plate of the claimed invention. In reply to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Species 1: Figure 1, Plate character reference number 2 as identified by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicant submits that claims 1-35, 38-75, and 77-101 are directed to elected Species 1.

To the extent any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including

any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Dated: September 7, 2001

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